

Excerpts from USBGN Domestic Names Committee Meeting Minutes found at:
https://geonames.usgs.gov/docs/pubs/DNCMinutes/DNC%20834_May13_2021%20Minutes.pdf

U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
 Eight Hundred and Thirty-fourth Meeting
 May 13, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.
 (Virtual Meeting)

Arikara Creek, South Dakota (Review List 442) (FID 2829926)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 13 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Arikara Creek, South Dakota
 (Review List 442)

Mouth: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=44.33263&p_longi=-100.20235

Source: https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=44.34797&p_longi=-100.19566

		Support	Oppose	No opinion	No objection	No response
Local government	Hughes County Commissioners					X
State Names Authority	South Dakota	X				
Federal Agency	USACE			X		
Tribes						X
Other						X

The new name Arikara Creek is proposed for a 1.25-mile-long tributary of Lake Sharpe, a reservoir on the Missouri River in Hughes County. The lowest part of the stream flows through the Arikara Game Production Area, managed by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks. The mouth of the stream is within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Lake Sharpe Recreation Area.

The name refers to the Arikara people who inhabited the area, now members of the federally recognized Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation (the Tribe refers to itself as the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation). The name was proposed to and recommended for approval by the South Dakota Board on Geographic Names (SDBGN). The proponent wishes to recognize

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the historical presence of the Arikara people in the area before they were reduced by smallpox and forced out by the Dakota and Lakota Tribes.

The USGS 1934 1:48,000-scale advance sheet (topographic map) labeled “Fort Arikara” near the location of the stream, which refers to the Arzberger Site, a National Historic Landmark and important Arikara archaeological site.

The proposal for Arikara Creek was submitted to the SDBGN in response to a proposal to apply the name Crone Creek, which had been submitted by a landowner along the stream. That name referred to the “small, bent, and crooked nature” of the stream. Several public comments pointed out the negative connotation of the word “crone” and the SDBGN concurred. The proponent of Crone Creek does not object to the name Arikara Creek but stated that they believe “the Arikara Peoples deserve a more vibrant, flowing and strong representation” in a geographic name, stating, “This creek, dry for three seasons out of four, does not capture these peoples. In fact, it seems like an ironic, inadequate tribute, tributary. . . . It very well may be that this is the only chance to attach the rightful name to this area. If that is the rationale, I truly approve. But you may want to think twice when attaching the Arikara name to a dribbling, weak and faltering creek.”

GNIS lists Lake Arikara, formed by Arikara Dam on Dry Run in Hughes County, 4.5 miles to the northeast (and not connected to the proposed Arikara Creek).

Several other names are related to the Arikara people, spelled either “Arikara”, “Arickaree”, or “Arikaree,” in South Dakota, North Dakota, Colorado, and Nebraska. According to *North Dakota Place Names* (1988), the other spellings were prevalent in the late 1890s. Arikaree River in Nebraska, Kansas, and Colorado was an 1896 BGN decision to establish the spelling (vs. Arickaree River); a 1977 BGN decision resolved an application discrepancy but did not address the spelling. Arikaree Peak in Colorado was a 1914 BGN decision; the decision card notes that Arikara was the spelling in the Smithsonian’s *Handbook of North American Indians*.

As part of its outreach, the SDBGN contacted many interested parties, including 11 federally recognized Tribes. No responses were received.